

What I claim is:

1. A method of determining the risk of default and/or late payment by a potential borrower which is a supplier in a supply chain by:

5 factoring in the supplier's credit score; and

factoring in the Original Equipment Manufacturer's evaluation of the supplier.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the evaluation of the supplier includes the OEM's determination of how important the supplier is to the OEM.

10 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the evaluation of the supplier includes how important the supplier is to the functioning of the supply chain.

15 4. A method of determining the credit worthiness of a first supplier by:

factoring in the first supplier's credit score; and

factoring in a second supplier's evaluation of the first supplier.

20 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the evaluation of the first supplier includes the second supplier's determination of how important the first supplier is to the second supplier.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein the evaluation of the first supplier includes how important the first supplier is to the functioning of a supply chain.

7. A method of doing business comprising:  
an Original Equipment Manufacturer receiving information regarding supplier operations from both direct and indirect suppliers;

*the direct suppliers and indirect suppliers receiving a value from the Original*

5 Equipment Manufacturer by participating in a favorable supply chain financing program; and  
such information is used as data inputs for data processing to assist in the  
coordination and/or management of supply chain activities.

8. A method of providing credit enhancement to the benefit of a supplier in a

10 supply chain comprising:

*determining the value of the supplier to an Original Equipment Manufacturer*  
and/or the functioning of the supply chain; and  
transmitting an assurance from the Original Equipment Manufacturer to at  
least one third party lender or at least one investor that the supplier is an important part of  
15 the Original Equipment Manufacturer's business.

9. A method of doing business comprising:

determining by a financial institution the risk of default and/or late payment by  
a potential borrower which is a supplier in a supply chain wherein the determination of the  
20 credit risk associated with the supplier includes taking account of an Original Equipment  
Manufacturer's valuation of the supplier in a supply chain which supplies the Original  
Equipment Manufacturer with goods or services;

using the determined credit risk as a factor in issuing asset backed securities employing credit enhancement techniques; and

providing information regarding the supplier's operations to the Original Equipment Manufacturer where such information is used as data inputs for data processing to

5 assist in the coordination and/or management of supply chain operations.

10. A method of doing business comprising;

obtaining favorable loan conditions for a participant in a supply chain; and  
in exchange for obtaining favorable loan conditions, requiring the participant

10 to participate in educational programs about the importance of the supply chain on how the participant should operate so as to maximize supply chain operations.

11. A method of doing business comprising:

15 (1)  
using credit enhancement techniques by a strong participant in a supply chain  
to support asset backed securities; and  
obtaining favorable loan conditions for a weak participant in the supply chain  
based upon the strong participant's support of the asset backed securities.

20 12. A method of doing business comprising:

assisting a small/weak participant in a first supply chain to obtain favorable financing supported by a large/strong participant;

using the favorable financing provided to the small/weak participant to produce additional goods and/or services supplied to a second supply chain which competes with the first supply chain; and

providing rebates to the large/strong participant from the small/weak

- 5 participant within the first supply chain in exchange for the assistance provided by the large/strong participant.

*Add a*